

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EA-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ORM-01 SR-02

AID-05 IGA-01 FDRE-00 OPR-02 /067 W

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O 071504Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1597

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0853

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 97854

1. ORAL DEMARCHE ON RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WAS MADE TO MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS GREENWOOD SILWIZYA ON MAY 7. HE RESPONDED HE COULD NOT, OF COURSE, MAKE ANY OFFICIAL COMMITMENT OR COMMENT PRIOR TO PRESENTATION OF MATTER TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA, WHICH HE UNDERTOOK TO DO.

2. SILWIZYA VOLUNTEERED VIETNAMESE REFUGEE QUESTION IS ONE FOR WORLD CONCERN AND NOT JUST THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A FEW. HE NOTED ZAMBIA HAD BEEN THE REFUGE FOR THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES FROM SURROUNDING COUNTRIES FOR A GREAT MANY YEARS AND THEREFORE HAD AN APPRECIATION OF THE PROBLEM. HE ADDED ZAMBIA HAD NOT ACCEPTED THESE REFUGEES SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRICANS BUT BECAUSE IT WAS A MATTER OF HUMANITY. HE STATED THAT THERE WOULD BE A RESPONSE EITHER THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OR DIRECTLY FROM STATE HOUSE.

3. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO SILWIZYA'S PRESENTATION OF REFUGEE
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QUESTION TO KAUNDA IF WE COULD PROVIDE AS MUCH BACKGROUND

MATERIAL AS POSSIBLE; PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT WILL BE THE REACTIONS AND INTENTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES ON QUESTION OF RECEIVING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

4. THOUGH THERE FAIR CHANCE PRESIDENT WILL SEE MATTER IN MORE OR LESS SAME LIGHT AS SILWIZYA, DOUBT ZAMBIANS WOULD FEEL INCLINED OR ABLE TAKE LARGE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE. THEY MAY WELL BE INTERESTED IN CERTAIN PROFESSIONS, E.G., DOCTORS. IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE USEFUL IT, WHEN THE INFORMATION IS GATHERED, THEY COULD BE SUPPLIED WITH AN INDICATION OF WHAT SKILLS MAY BE AVAILABLE AMONG REFUGEES INTERESTED IN COMING TO AFRICA.
NELSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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